



# PATENT SPECIFICATION

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## PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

### Improvements relating to Invalids' Desks

I, (Miss) ANNE MUIRHEAD MATHAMS, of 147, Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh, 9, Scotland, British Subject, do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows:—

This invention is concerned with portable desks for use by invalids, and particularly for use in the education of invalid children.

According to my invention, the desk top is horizontal or nearly so and is flanked on two opposite sides by boxes or compartments which are sufficiently deep to provide a recess beneath the desk between the two side compartments. This recess is of such a width as to enable the desk to be placed astride the patient or to be placed astride a pair of spaced longitudinal runners or guides which may be suitably supported above the bed, one at each side of the patient.

The two compartments are provided with flat hinged lids flush with or slightly above the desk top. The compartments are adapted to contain the necessary writing utensils or other articles.

In one form of my invention, the desk top is slightly below the lids of the two side compartments and the rear edge of the desk top is provided with a raised fillet to retain articles on the desk top, which may also be used by the patient as a shelf or tray. If desired, and particularly for infants or young children, the back of the desk and side compartments may be fitted with a fixed vertically projecting back plate.

According to an alternative form of my invention, the article comprising a combined desk and side compartments as hereinbefore described, may be convertible into a book rest, for which purpose the desk top is hinged at its rear edge to enable it to be turned upwards into an inclined position in which it is supported by one or more hinged or pivoted struts or stays which can be folded within a shallow compartment beneath the desk top when the latter is not in use as a book rest and is folded down into its flat horizontal position. When the desk is to be used as a book rest, it is turned around from the normal position in which it is used as a desk, in order that the desk top, when in inclined position for use as a book rest, will face the patient. When the desk top is folded into the flat horizontal position, it may be used by the patient as a tray or shelf.

The side compartments of the article may be sub-divided and the bottom angles may be fitted with angle fillets to facilitate abstraction of the contents of the compartments.

Pencils or other writing utensils may be attached to the lids of the compartments by flexible cords or the like which may pass through a hole in the lid and be secured to a ring or other retaining device within the compartment.

Dated this 20th day of November, 1945.

JOHNSON & BURGESS,  
Chartered Patent Agents,  
44, Queen Street, Edinburgh, 2.

## COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

### Improvements relating to Invalids' Desks

I, (Miss) ANNE MUIRHEAD MATHAMS, of 147, Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh, 9, Scotland, British Subject, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

[Price 1/-]

This invention is concerned with portable desks for use by invalids, and particularly for use in the education of invalid children, and in which the desk top is horizontal or nearly so and is flanked on two opposite sides by boxes or compartments which are sufficiently deep

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to project below the desk and provide a recess beneath it between the two side compartments, this recess being of such a width as to enable the desk to be placed  
5 astride the patient or to be placed astride a pair of spaced longitudinal runners or guides which may be suitably supported above the bed, one at each side of the patient.

10 According to the invention the two compartments are provided with flat hinged lids slightly above the desk top. The compartments are adapted to contain the necessary writing utensils or other  
15 articles.

Various forms of my improved portable invalid's desk are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, Figs. 1 and 2 being isometric views of desks having a  
20 fixed desk top. Fig. 3 is an isometric view of a convertible desk and book-rest. Fig. 4 is a fragmentary view showing part of a deep desk for placing astride a patient in bed.

25 In the forms of my invention shown in Figs. 1 and 2, a fixed desk top 5 is slightly below the lids 6 of two side compartments 7 and the rear edge of the desk top is provided with a raised fillet 8 to retain  
30 articles on the desk top, which may also be used by the patient as a shelf or tray. If desired, and particularly for infants or young children, the back of the desk and side compartments may be fitted, as  
35 shown in Fig. 1, with a fixed vertically projecting back plate 9.

The lids 6 are preferably provided with inside hinges 10 to enable the lids to be opened out and folded downwards as  
40 shown in dotted lines in Fig. 2. It will be apparent from Figs. 1 and 2, that the side compartments 7 extend below the desk top 5 and provide a recess 11 which enables the desk to be placed astride the patient in  
45 bed or astride a pair of spaced longitudinal runners supported above the bed, one at each side of the patient. A lock 12 may be provided for the lids 6.

According to the alternative form of  
50 my invention shown in Fig. 3, the article comprising a combined desk and side compartments as hereinbefore described, is convertible into a book-rest, for which purpose the desk top 5 is hinged at its  
55 rear edge to enable it to be turned upwards into the inclined position shown in which it is supported by one or more hinged or pivoted struts or stays 14 which can be folded within a shallow  
60 compartment 15 beneath the desk top when the latter is not in use as a book-

rest and is folded down into its flat horizontal position. The desk top is provided near its hinge with a projecting ledge 8  
65 to enable it to support a book when used as a book-rest. The article is turned from the normal position in which it is used as a flat desk, in order that the desk top, when in inclined position for use as a  
70 book-rest, will face the patient. When the desk top is folded into the flat horizontal position, it may be used by the patient as a tray or shelf, as in Figs. 1 and 2.

One side compartment may be large enough to contain books and the other  
75 side compartment 7 of the article may be sub-divided into smaller compartments 16, as seen in Fig. 4, to contain pencils or other articles, and the bottom angles of the compartments 16 may be fitted with  
80 angle fillets to facilitate abstraction of the contents of the compartments.

Pencils or other writing utensils may be attached to the lids of the compartments by flexible cords or the like which  
85 may pass through a hole 13 in the lid and be secured to a ring or other retaining device within the compartment.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention and in what manner the same is to be  
90 performed, I declare that what I claim is:—

1. A portable desk for invalids comprising a horizontal or substantially  
95 horizontal desk top flanked on two opposite sides by compartments which are of such depth as to project below the desk and provide a recess beneath it between the two side compartments, said recess  
100 being of such a width as to enable the desk to be placed astride a patient or astride a pair of spaced longitudinal runners one at each side of the patient, characterized in that the two compartments have flat hinged lids above the  
105 level of the desk top.

2. A portable desk according to claim 1 having the lids of the side compartments provided with inside hinges which, when  
110 the lid is opened, permit the lid to hang downwards at the side of the compartment.

3. Portable desks for invalids, particularly invalid children, constructed as  
115 herein described and illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

Dated this 20th day of November, 1946.  
JOHNSON & BURGESS,  
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FIG.1.

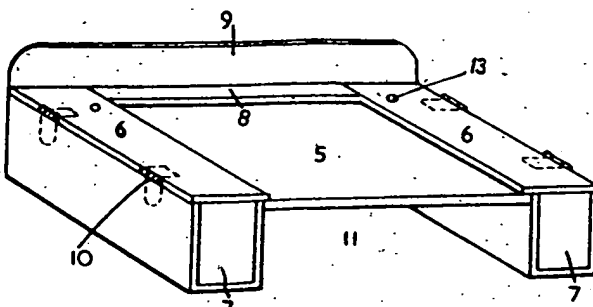


FIG.2.

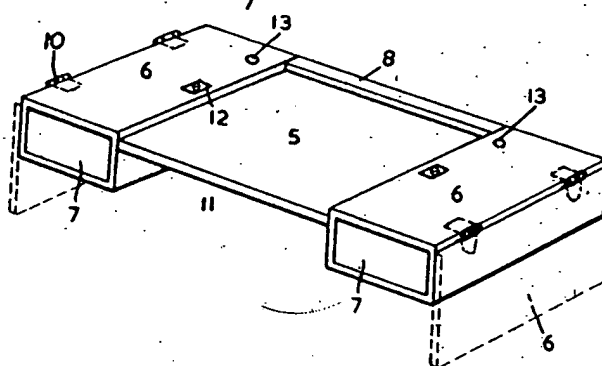


FIG.3.

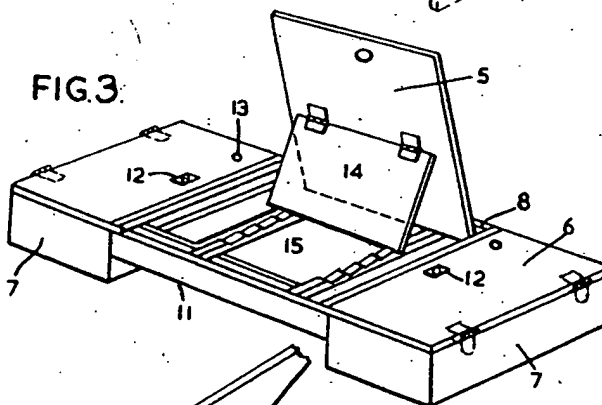
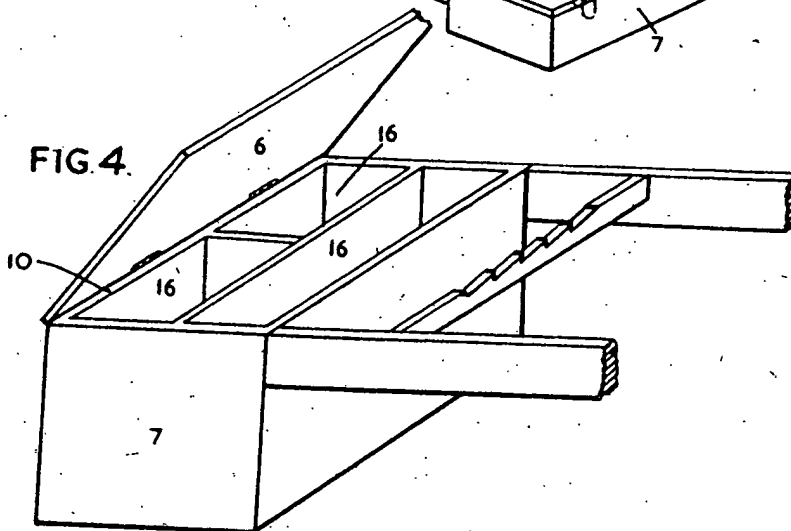


FIG.4.



[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.]